

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PHOUMI VONGVICHIT SPEECH - DECEMBER 12, 1975

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: FBIS BK141053Y DEC 75

SUMMARY: PARTY POLITBURO MEMBER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT GAVE A LONG SPEECH DECEMBER 12 OUTLINING THE PDRL'S PROGRAM OF ACTION. IN IT HE TOUCHED ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS OF GENERAL INTEREST INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, SEMINARS, CAPITALISM, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, FOREIGN COMMERCE, AND COLLECTIVIZATION OF AGRICULTURE. END OF SUMMARY.

1. PARTY POLITBURO MEMBER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, NEWLY INSTALLED AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND RELIGION OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS, GAVE A SPEECH ON DECEMBER 12 TO THE EMPLOYEES OF HIS NEW MINISTRY. PHOUMI'S SPEECH WAS LONG, BUT IT SEEMED TO BE IN HIS OWN WORDS--UNLIKE THOSE NORMALLY GIVEN BY SEC-

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RETARY GENERAL KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN AND PDRL PRESIDENT TIAO

SOUPHANOUVONG WHICH SOUND AS IF THEY ARE WRITTEN BY THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WRITE FOR VIETNAMESE PARTY FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN AND PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG. PHOUMI WAS HIS USUAL AVUNCULAR SELF THROUGHOUT, SPICING HIS REMARKS, WHICH WERE BASICALLY A DISCUSSION OF THE PDRL'S NEW PROGRAM OF ACTION, WITH HOMELY ANALOGIES. SOME OF HIS MORE INTERESTING STATEMENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED BELOW.

2. THE UNITED STATES: PHOUMI STATED: "WHAT WE SAW WAS THAT THE AMERICANS HAD TO YIELD TO THE LAO PEOPLE'S WISHES. THEY FIRST FOUND IT NECESSARY TO DISSOLVE USAID, BRING HOME THE MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND PERSONNEL THEY HAD SENT HERE TO CONTROL THE LAO PEOPLE AND HAND OVER TO THE LAO PEOPLE THE VARIOUS FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED WITH THE MONEY GIVEN TO LAOS AS AID, SINCE THIS MONEY WAS GIVEN BY THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR HELPING THE LAO PEOPLE. IN FACT, THAT MONEY WAS USED TO CONSTRUCT BIG BUILDINGS EQUIPPED WITH AIR-CONDITIONERS AND OTHER LUXURIOUS FACILITIES, SO THAT AMERICANS WHO HAD BEEN UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES COULD ENJOY GOOD LIVING AND BE WELL PAID. THESE PEOPLE RETURNED HOME ONLY AFTER WE HAD RISEN UP TO STRUGGLE." (COMMENT: THIS IS THE LAO VERSION OF THE NEW GUINEA CARGO CULT AND IS THE RATIONALE FOR THEIR SEIZURE OF ALL USAID PROPERTY.)

3. PHOUMI ALSO STATED THAT "WE MAINTAIN THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS LACKEYS HAVE NOT YET GIVEN UP THEIR IDEAS AND SHCEMES TO MAKE LAOS THEIR NEO-COLONY."

4. SEMINARS: PHOUMI, IN RESONSE TO WHAT THE SAID WERE MANY QUERIES, DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE BENIGN NATURE OF SEMINARS AT VIENGSAI. HE SAID THE HAPPY PARTICIPANTS DANCE AND SING AND EVEN GO FISHING IN THEIR SPARE TIME. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AMID THE BUCOLIC REVELS, "THEY ARE ALWAYS REMINDED THAT THEY MUST READJUST THEIR WAY OF THINKING." PHOUMI EXPLAINED THAT THESE SEMINARS TOOK PLACE AT VIENGSAI RATHER THAN AT VIENTIANE OR ELSEWHERE BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND BECAUSE VIENGSAI OFFERED MANY FACILITIES FOR STUDY. HE ADDED THAT HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUGHT SOME SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS WOULD BE RETURNING SOON. IN HIS CONCLUSION HE STATED THAT: "WE ARE NOT GOING TO SEND PEOPLE TO STUDY OR ATTEND SEMINARS IN VIENGSAI ANY MORE SINCE WE HAVE PLACES TO STUDY HERE." AT THIS POINT HIS SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE.

5. CAPITALISM: PHOUMI, AT THIS BEGINNING STAGE IN THE "MARCH TOWARD SOCIALISM," DEVIDES CAPITALISM INTO TWO

KINDS: A) "NATIONAL CAPITALISM" AND B) "COMPRADOR CAPITALISM." "NATIONAL CAPITALISM" IS GOOD AND TO BE ENCOURAGED AND GUIDED BY THE STATE. "COMPRADOR CAPITALISM," WHICH PHOUMI DEFINED AS "THOSE CAPITALISTS WHO ARE UNDER THE COMMAND OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES" WILL BE ABOLISHED AND THE PDRL WILL "BUILD UP AND STRENGTHEN STEP BY STEP THE SECTOR IN WHICH EVERYTHING IS OWNED BY THE PEOPLE."

6. FOREIGN INVESTMENT: PHOUMI INDICATED THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN LAOS WILL BE TOLERATED BUT THAT "AN AGREEMENT MUST BE MADE TO MAKE CLEAR HOW MANY YEARS THE INVESTMENT WILL LAST AND WHEN THE BUSINESS WILL BE HANDED OVER THE THE LAO GOVERNMENT."

7. PROTESTS: PHOUMI PREDICTED: "I BELIEVE THAT TIME FOR PROTEST STRUGGLE HAS PASSED AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE PROTESTS."

8. FOREIGN COMMERCE: PHOUMI SAID: "THE STATE WILL HANDLE THE IMPORT OF GOODS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES."

9. COLLECTIVIZATION OF AGRICULTURE: PHOUMI STATED THAT IT WAS PDRL POLICY TO "ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST PEASANTS TO TAKE THE PATH OF COLLECTIVIZATION." HE ADDED: " COLLECTIVIZATION CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN MANY WAYS, SUCH AS ORGANIZING COLLECTIVE LABOR IN HARVESTING CROPS OR LABOR EXCHANGES OR SOLIDARITY LABOR UNIS. COLLECTIVIZATION CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN FARMING COOPERATIVES IN WHICH ALL PEASANTS WORK IN THEIR OWN FARMS SIMULTANEOUSLY AND SHARE THE PRODUCTS PROPORTIONALLY."

10. COMMENT: PHOUMI, IN HIS RAMBLING REMARKS, APPEARS TO HAVE HAD TWO TASKS TO FULFILL; FIRST TO EXPAND ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PDRL'S BASIC PROGRAM AND SECOND TO CALM THE WORRIES OF THE NERVOUS INHABITANTS OF THE EX-VIENTIANE ZONE. HIS REMARKS ON THE FORMER REVEAL NO SURPRISES. HIS SUCCESS AT THE LATTER REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED.
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